

# NorCal Group 5 News

*News For All NorCal CAP Members*

January 1, 2003  
Volume 3, Issue 1

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## Packing Your Parachute

*Maj. Dennis Parham, Commander*

Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience!

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*Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent...to save the life of someone he didn't know.*

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One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!" "How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb. "I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat; a bib in the back; and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see,

I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the



ship carefully, weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each parachute to save the life of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory - he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety. Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this

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month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachutes.

I am including this in the Group 5 newsletter as my way of thanking you for your part in packing my parachute. And I hope you will use it as a reminder to remember those who have helped you pack yours!

**Semper vigilans!**

## Change to 60-1

*1LT. Bill Slavensky, A/C Manager*

Effective 20 Dec 2002, National Headquarters issued a change to CAPR 60-1 regarding liability of CAP members for damage to CAP aircraft. This change allows for assessment to CAP members for repairs when accidents or other mishaps occur. In summary they are as follows:

For damage that occurs due to a member's **negligence**, the member shall be assessed up to \$500.

For damage that occurs due to a member's **gross negligence**, the member shall be assessed up to \$5000.

For damage that occurs due to a member's **willful or intentional misconduct**, the member's assessment may be increased beyond \$5000.

Each member should take the time to read and understand the full language of these changes prior to flying any CAP aircraft. The new changes also include and explain the appeals process that is available. General Bowling stated that these changes are a result of accidents in 2003 that resulted in the loss of 5 members and 1 customer, and \$1.25 Million in

damages or destruction to CAP aircraft.

## Wing Policy Letter 03-16

*1LT. Bill Slavensky, A/C Manager*

A reminder, effective January 14, 2003, that the minimum hourly rates for CAP corporate aircraft charges have been changed. This is due primarily to ensure a standard rate throughout the Wing. For All Mission Symbol "B" (except for B8 and B15), and Mission Symbol "C", the minimum hourly dry rate will be as follows:

- C-182 & Maul \$32.00
- C-206 & A-36 \$42.00

## CAP Mentioned in Homeland Defense Journal

*2LT. Steve Taylor, PAO*

The November and December 2002 issue of the Homeland Defense Journal each had a article on the Civil Air Patrol.

The HLDJ is a robust monthly news publication covering all aspects of Homeland Defense.

The November article, titled "Civil Air Patrol and FAA: Drug Trafficking and Terrorism are Connected" discusses the potential CAP has on the fight against drug smuggling. Al Allenback, CAP executive director, spoke on the power of CAP at the Anti-Smuggling Investigators

### *Contribute to the NorCal Group 5 Newsletter*

We are interested in receiving articles from all Units on topics that you feel will be of interest to all Group 5 members.

You may submit articles and pictures (if available) either electronically or by regular mail. Electronic formats for articles should be in Microsoft Word format, or compatible. Electronic photo submissions should be sent in JPG format. Send electronic submissions to Steve Taylor, Group 5 Newsletter Editor at [SJTEntrprs@aol.com](mailto:SJTEntrprs@aol.com).

If by regular mail, send photos in a protected envelope and provide your name and address for return. Mail documents to Steve Taylor, Newsletter Editor, at the Group 5 Headquarters address.



Association Conference, which CAP co-hosted along with the FAA.

The December article, titled "Civil Air Patrol: Positioned for Homeland Defense" makes known the ability and availability of the vast CAP resources, and its role in Homeland Defense for more than 60 years.

You can read these articles online at the HLDJ web site at <http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com>

## Group 5 Bonanza Gets CAP Paint Scheme

*2Lt. Steve Taylor, PAO*

The Bonanza has finally received its new CAP paint scheme and it looks great! The plane is currently getting interior work done including radios. Get out to the airport and take a look!



*Photo courtesy of Squadron 14.*

## Coming Events

**January 7**  
**Monthly Group 5 Staff Meeting**  
Group 5 Headquarters

**February 4**  
**Monthly Group 5 Staff Meeting**  
Group 5 Headquarters

**March 1-2**  
**Squadron Leadership School**  
Torrance

**March 4**  
**Monthly Group 5 Staff Meeting**  
Group 5 Headquarters

**March 8**  
**DDR Eagle Flights**  
Auburn Squadron 92

**March 21-23**  
**BCS**  
Beale AFB

## Group 5 Staff

**Maj. Dennis Parham**  
*Commander*

**Capt. David Strannard**  
*Deputy Commander*  
*Counter-Narcotics*  
*Operations*  
*Emergency Services*

**LtCol. John Ching**  
*Administration*

**Maj. George Dawson**  
*Chaplain*

**2Lt. Curtis Hensley**  
*Logistics Officer*

**Capt. Jim Szykowny**  
*Cadet Programs*

**LtCol. Charles Starr**  
*Communications*

**2Lt. Samuel Jones**  
*Historian*

**Maj. Harry Van Rintel**  
*Inspector General*

**Maj. Marie Whaley**  
*Financer*

**2Lt. Daryl Kielich**  
*Aircraft Maintenance Officer*

**1Lt. Bill Slavensky**  
*Aircraft Maintenance Officer*

**1Lt. Todd Sprague**  
*Glider Program Officer*

**1Lt. Mark Naber**  
*Management Information Officer*

**2Lt Steve Taylor**  
*Public Affairs Officer*

